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TOURING THE HOLY LAND

J. E. HOLLEY

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J. A. Nordstrom

Touring the Holy Land

By

J. E. HOLLEY

AUTHOR

The Sacred Pageant of the Ages, Life and Travels of Jesus, The Bible in Pictures, etc.

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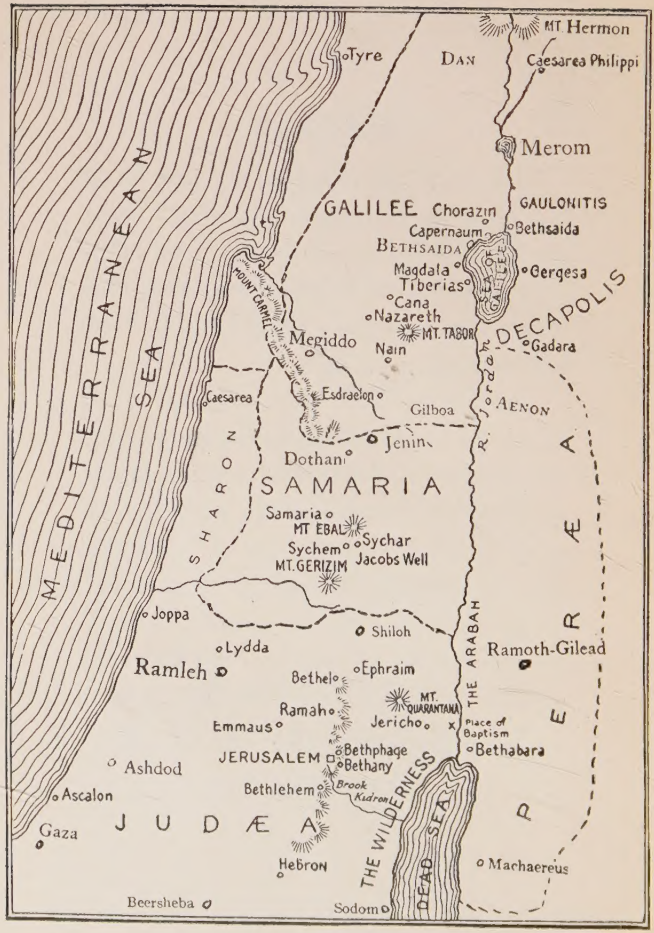
PREFACE

This little book has been prepared to stimulate an interest in the most fascinating country in the world, The Holy Land, where our Bible was written and where the characters described in it lived and wrought ages ago.

The writer has only attempted to touch the high spots in Palestine through the pictures and to make mention of the outstanding events which occurred in each of the places pictured. If the map is faithfully consulted, the reader should be able to get a splendid idea of the geography of the country and add interest to the study of the illustrations.

Cincinnati, May, 1927.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Tyre
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Cana
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MT. TABOR
DECAPOLIS
Megiddo
Nain
Gadara
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
MOUNT CARMEL
Caesarea
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AENON
Jenin
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SAMARIA
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MT. EBAL
Sychem
Sychar
Jacobs Well
MT. GERIZIM
PEREA
Joppa
Shiloh
Lydda
Ramleh
Ramoth-Gilead
Bethel
Ephraim
MT. QUARANTANA
Ramah
Jericho
Place of Baptism
Emmaus
Bethabara
JERUSALEM
Bethphage
Bethany
Ashdod
Ascalon
Bethlehem
Brook Kidron
JUDÆA
Gaza
Hebron
THE WILDERNESS
DEAD SEA
Machaereus
Beersheba
Sodom

JOPPA FROM THE SEA

Since the days of Jonah and Solomon, Joppa has been the principal port of entry into the Holy Land. The voyage from New York to Joppa may be made without change of boat, and as soon as foot is set upon the sacred soil, an interest is born which grows as one proceeds farther into the Land of the Bible.

HOUSE OF DORCAS

The timbers for Solomon's Temple were landed at Joppa by King Hiram's men. The story of Jonah and the Whale was laid here, and one member of the early Christian church, Dorcas by name, lived in this city, and this fountain and Mohammedan shrine marks the place of her residence. She was restored to life by the Apostle Peter.

HOUSE OF SIMON THE TANNER

During Saint Peter's sojourn in Joppa he was entertained by one Simon, a tanner, who lived near the seashore. This is called the house of the tanner, and in evidence here is an old stone tanning vāt. The steps lead to the flat roof, where we are told that Peter, through a vision, was sent to Cæsarea, where he made the first Gentile converts to the Christian faith.

CÆSAREA

Cæsarea is about thirty miles north of Joppa, and the city was built by Herod the Great, which he made the principal port of his kingdom. As has been noted, the first Gentile converts to Christianity were made here. It was the home of the Evangelist Philip, and St. Paul served two years in prison at Cæsarea. He appealed his case to Rome through Festus and sailed from here to that city.

TYRE

Before we leave the coast let us move on far to the north to ancient Tyre, which was a beautiful and prosperous city before the days of David. In David's time Hiram was its king, and he and David were good friends. Hiram furnished cedar timbers for Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem, and artisans from his kingdom, we might say, built it, together with its appurtenances.

SIDON

Sidon was often a rival of Tyre, and as often they were combined into the same kingdom. This city was the birthplace of Jezebel, and her father at that time was king and the chief priest of Baal. Baal worship was carried by her into Israel, and Elijah denounced both Jezebel and Ahab most bitterly. Both Sidon and Tyre were visited by Saint Paul, and each had a Christian church at that time.

PLAIN OF SHARON

From Joppa eastward stretches the plain of Sharon, out of which rises the Judean Hills, near the center of Palestine. This picture was made from the tower of Ramleh (ancient Arimathaea), looking east. The city of Lydda is four miles to the north, Ekron six miles south of here, and the Valley of Ajalon lies to the east.

FIRST VIEW OF JERUSALEM

The main objective of a visit to the Holy Land is Jerusalem, and here it is. Revered by Mohammedan, Jew, and Christian. The complete story of the joy and sorrow that has been witnessed within her walls will never be known. To the right are her majestic walls, rising from Zion. Farther on is David's tower, and beyond is the Joppa Gate.

DAVID'S TOWER

Joab scaled the walls near here and took the city from the Jebusites, and from the tower David directed the affairs of the Kingdom of Israel, more than a thousand years before Christ. Continuously since that time it has been used for military purposes until recently, when it was converted into a museum, through the encouragement of the British.

THE JOPPA GATE

A short distance from David's tower is the Joppa Gate, the main entrance to the modern city. More people enter the Holy City through this gate than all the other seven combined, because it is nearest the railroad station. The principal bazaars are just inside, and it is surrounded by the business district "outside the walls."

DAVID STREET

Immediately upon passing through the Joppa Gate we find ourselves on the "Broadway" of Jerusalem, David Street, so called because it is dominated by David's tower. Here are the shops, the banks, the tourists' offices, the modern hotels, and multitudes of natives picturesquely costumed as in days of old. This street ends on Mount Moriah, the site of Solomon's Temple.

MOSQUE OF OMAR

Here is Mount Moriah, scene of Abraham about to offer Isaac, and where, centuries later, Solomon built the Temple. This building is the Mosque of Omar, although generally known as the Dome of the Rock, because of the tradition that Abraham's altar was built upon a large rock directly under the dome, which may be seen on the next page.

THE ROCK

This great rock, it is believed, was visited by Abraham. Beyond the shadow of a doubt the altar for burnt-offerings stood on it, and the entrance to the Temple was only a few feet to the west. Language cannot give expression to the scenes of good and evil which have occurred here during the centuries long past.

JERUSALEM AND OLIVET

This comprehensive view gives a better idea of the Temple site in its relation to the modern city and the Mount of Olives, which lies a Sabbath Day's journey" to the east. Jesus passed over Olivet many times, and from its summit ascended into heaven. The Kedron flows between the hill and the Holy City, and it is called the Valley of Jehosephat.

JERUSALEM FROM OLIVET

Standing on Olivet, Jerusalem, which covers four little hills, spreads out before us, making a scene never to be forgotten. On Mount Moriah, where the Dome of the Rock stands, is the site of Solomon's Temple, and where Herod's temple stood in the time of Christ. Between here and Moriah is the Garden of Gethsemane in the Valley.

GETHSEMANE AND OLIVET

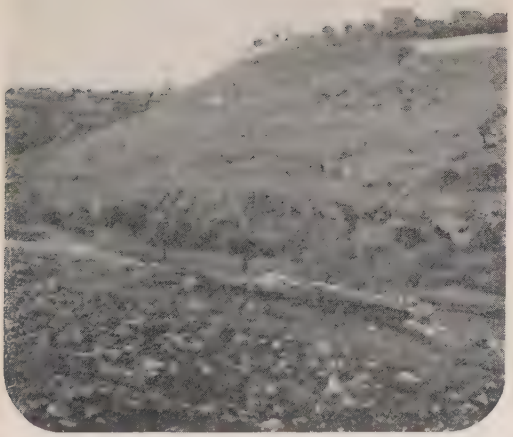
We stand just outside the east wall of Jerusalem, and on the other side of the little streamlet (Kedron) is the garden where Jesus spent a part of his last night on earth in prayer, and where he was betrayed and arrested. You get its relation to Olivet and the roads lead to Bethany on the opposite side, where they merge.

GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

The garden to-day is very beautiful; but when Jesus came here to pray it was cold and uninviting. The little dome marks the traditional place where he prayed that night while his disciples slept at another spot a few rods away. The garden is kept by a devout Franciscan monk, who has devoted his life to beautifying it.

THE GOLDEN GATE

The Golden Gate is in plain view of Gethsemane, and was the portal to the Temple enclosure. Jesus rode through it upon his Triumphal Entry, but it has long since been closed by the Mohammedans, who predict that it will be opened to receive him again upon his return, and they have chosen the ground near it as a sacred burial place.



VALLEY OF HINNOM

Mount Zion breaks abruptly into the valley of Hinnom (Gehenna) to the south. Originally this valley was dedicated to the hideous god Moloch, to which human sacrifice was offered and continued until King Josiah. It was here, tradition states, that Judas contracted to betray our Lord for thirty pieces of silver, and afterward hanged himself.

ZION FROM THE SOUTH

Across the Valley of Hinnom is Mount Zion. There David, the first king of Israel, lived and was buried. He dreamed and sang and wrote of it. The Last Supper was held over there, the Pentecostal sermon was delivered there by Saint Peter, and to-day Mount Zion is crowned by the most beautiful church in all Palestine, called the Church of the Virgin.

STREET IN ZION

This is, of course, the oldest part of the Holy City, and the architecture dates far back into the centuries. This Zion street perhaps more nearly resembles those of the days of the ancient kings than any others; yet it cannot be said that they ever saw it, for Jerusalem has been razed many times, and the original city lies buried some seventy feet below.

ECCE HOMO ARCH

Ecce Homo means "Behold the Man." Under this arch, it is said, Pilate stood with Jesus at his side as he said "Behold the Man," and delivered him up to be crucified. It marks the beginning of the Via Doloroso (the sorrowful way) over which our Lord carried his cross to Calvary. There are "Fourteen Stations" en route, and the last one is the Holy Sepulchre itself.

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE

Here is the grand old Basilica. Since the days of Constantine the Great it has covered the hill of Calvary. The smaller dome shelters the place where the cross stood; and the larger one, the garden tomb where our Lord was buried. It is indeed a revered spot. It has stood the ravages of time, and much human blood has been shed to retain it in Christian hands.

HOLY SEPULCHRE—CALVARY

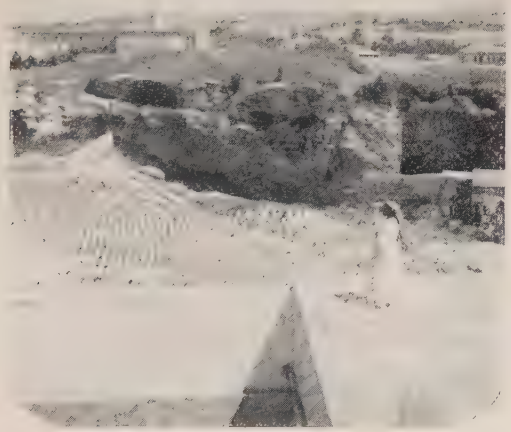
We here stand directly under the smaller dome; and here, many believe, the cross of Christ once stood. It is therefore a revered spot, and millions have bowed with uncovered head at this sacred shrine as the gracious story of the last three hours of the life of our Lord passes through their mind, and they finally hear him say "It is finished."

THE HOLY SEPULCHRE

This superb canopy is located directly under the larger dome, and covers the tomb of Joseph of Arimathæa in which Jesus rested. It is gorgeously embellished with golden lamps and immense candlesticks of precious metal. This is not the tomb itself, but a covering for it. Entrance to it is gained through the door, and by a series of steps the tomb is reached.

THE HOLY TOMB

We are now several yards below the surface where we stood in the preceding picture, and this place is pointed out as a very holy tomb itself, and we are told that Jesus' body was placed on that marble slab by the kindly hands of Joseph of Arimathæa and Nicodemus. The two Marys, then, were also here, and conversed with angels sent from God.

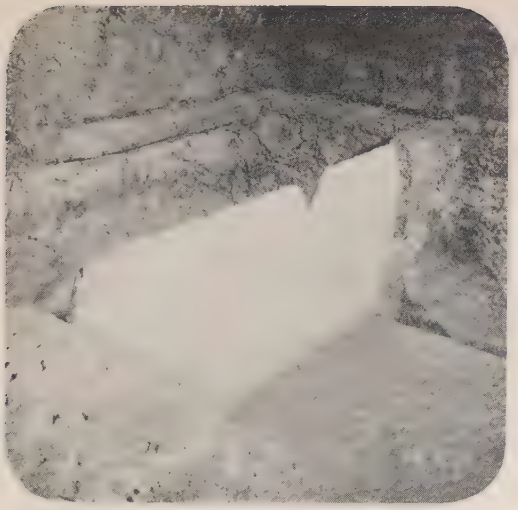


GORDON'S CALVARY

We are standing on the walls of Jerusalem near the Damascus gate, looking north. Several years ago General Gordon stood here and, as he beheld this little knoll, became convinced that it was Golgotha—Place of the Skull. His argument is that it resembles the description of Calvary. It is located at a prominent crossroad, and is, as it must have been, "outside the walls."

AN ANCIENT TOMB

The entire face of the hill is honeycombed with tombs, and at the base is one of the finest, such as would have been constructed by a man of wealth like Joseph of Arimathæa. A smooth garden spreads out to your right, and here, on a level with it, is the tomb mentioned, or rather the entrance to it, which, to General Gordon's mind, is further evidence of its authenticity.



THE SARCOPHAGUS

The testimony to the wealth of the builder of this tomb is borne out also by the elaborate ruins of the Sarcophagus built inside the structure, as here shown. Although the argument in favor of Gordon's Calvary certainly has some value, yet it seems strange that it was not considered during the early centuries, when the time of the event was not so far removed.

OUTSIDE JOPPA GATE

We are standing just outside the Joppa Gate. Zion is to our left, the plain out there is Rĕphaim, and beyond the distant hills is Bethlehem. We go there on our first side trip, for it is next in importance to the Holy City, and only about six miles south of it. The Wise Men must have traveled over that road in the final lap of their journey to see Him that "was born King."

BETHLEHEM

As we stand on the summit of the hills seen on the preceding page, Bethlehem lies at our feet. The city is built on a terraced hillside, and though not large it is one of the important cities of the Christian world, because Jesus was born here. The place of his birth is marked by the large church to be seen in the distance to the left.

STREET IN BETHLEHEM

This broad street might be called the forum or the market place, and is a gala place on Christmas Day, when the people celebrate the birthday of Jesus, who was born in their own city. Those so far removed from there as ourselves can scarcely imagine the full meaning of Christmas until we have spent one in the very place where our Lord was born.

THE SHEPHERDS' FIELD

At the base of the hills of Bethlehem a great plain spreads out to the south-east. This field once belonged to Boaz, husband of Ruth. Her great-grandson was David, who was attending his father's sheep here when Samuel anointed him king to succeed Saul. Since that time it has been called the Shepherd's Field, and a thousand years later Jesus' birth was announced to shepherds in this same field.

CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

In full view of the field just mentioned is this great church. It was built by Queen Helena early in the fourth century, and covers the little grotto where Jesus was born. This basilica, like that of the Holy Sepulchre, has endured the ravages of the Mohammedans these many centuries, and is still intact, much as it was in the beginning, and is visited by multiplied thousands annually.

NATIVITY INTERIOR

Aside from the sacredness of the spot the Nativity occupies, there are other things of interest connected with it which make it doubly interesting. Many of the capitols and columns once had their places in the temples at Jerusalem. They were gathered from the rubbish and built into this great church. So you see the same columns which were wrought by Herod's workmen or possibly Solomon's.

ENTRANCE TO THE CRYPT

We are now at the west end of the main corridor, and this floor is some thirteen or fourteen feet above the crypt, where Jesus was born. Entrance is gained through the door to the right to a circular stairway which leads down to it. The church is used as a place of worship for the people of Bethlehem, but the sacred spot in it is the little cliff of rock far below.

THE CRYPT

This little chapel under a rock cliff is where Jesus was born on that Holy Night. Shepherds from the adjacent field must then have stood here, bewildered as they looked upon him, as they thought of the song of good will and peace they had heard from the angels earlier that first Christmas morning. It is beautiful now, and candles burn constantly.

SOLOMON'S POOLS

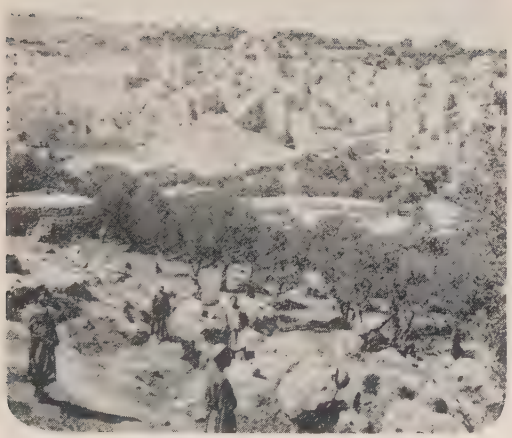
Four miles south of Bethlehem there are three colossal pools. By means of an aqueduct water was carried from here into Jerusalem in Solomon's day. The distance is ten miles, but since the course led around the hills and heads of the valleys, the distance must have been fully twice that far. The question of how this was accomplished by the engineers of that day is baffling indeed.

MAMRE

As we proceed southward, after about twenty miles from Jerusalem, we come to a little streamlet called Eshcol, noted as the place where the spies of Moses procured the large cluster of grapes. The head of the valley is called Mām̱re, and here Abraham spent many years of his life and received the great promises from God. The Monastery in the distance is dedicated to him.

HEBRON

Hebron, originally called Kirjath-Arba, is one of the oldest cities in the world. It was so closely associated with Mamre that often both names are given to the same place. It was for some time the home of Isaac. Jacob also lived here, and Joseph was sent from Hebron to his brothers when they sold him to slave dealers. David was crowned king of Judah here, and ruled in Hebron seven and one-half years.



MOSQUE AT HEBRON

Abraham was living at Hebron when Sarah, his wife, died. He bought a field called Machpelah from the Hittites because it contained a great cave, and in this grotto he buried his wife. Many centuries later the building (to the left) was erected over the cave by Christians and was used as a church until it was taken by the Mohammedans, and it is to-day one of their most sacred shrines.

ABRAHAM'S TOMB

Not only Sarah was buried in the cave of Macpelah, but also Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, together with the wife of each. No "heathen" has ever been allowed to enter the mosque, but recently a small electric plant was installed in it by the American Colony, and permission was given to photograph the tombs of Abraham and Sarah. This is the tomb of Abraham inside the Mosque.

BEERSHEBA

You have heard the expression, "From Dan to Beersheba." This is Beersheba, the southermost settlement in Palestine, on the edge of the Sinai desert. Here Abraham dug wells and planted groves. Later Isaac resided at Beersheba, and Jacob and Esau were born in this section. It was near here also that Esau sold his birthright to Jacob for a mess of pottage.

MOUNT SINAI

Nearly a hundred miles due south of Beersheba is Mount Sinai, a great boulder of red granite a mile thick, two miles long, and eight thousand feet high. Israel camped on this plain for a year, and Moses ascended the mountain, where he procured the Ten Commandments written on tablets of stone. Elijah was also here once and, like Moses, fasted for forty days on Mount Sinai.

BETHANY

Now we return to Jerusalem, or rather Bethany, which is on the opposite side of Olivet from it. Jesus was in Bethany several times, and abode in the home of Martha, Mary, and Lazarus. His greatest miracle—the raising of Lazarus—was performed here, and besides he also healed Simon, a prominent citizen, of leprosy. This Simon made a feast for him the night before his arrest, and he was anointed by Mary.

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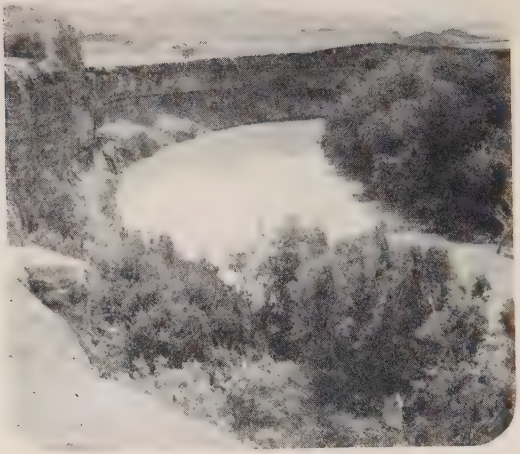
WILDERNESS OF JUDEA

From Bethany to the Dead Sea there is a great desert waste called the Wilderness of Judea—and sometimes called the Wilderness of the Scapegoat. A caravan route crosses it leading to Jericho, and it was once infested by robbers. Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan was laid in this desert, and tradition locates the incident of the man being robbed along the very road here pictured.

JERICHO

The wilderness table-land breaks abruptly into the Jordan valley on the east to a depth of more than a thousand feet below the sea level, and in this depression is Jericho. Jericho was the first city taken by Joshua, fifteen centuries before Christ. Herod the Great died here, and Jesus met Zacchæus and healed blind Bartimæus here. In the background is the Mount of Temptation, where Jesus fasted forty days.



RIVER JORDAN

Six miles east of Jericho is the River Jordan, the scene of many extraordinary events. Here the waters separated, and Israel crossed over on dry ground. The same thing occurred for Elijah and Elisha. Then many centuries later John the Baptist preached on these banks and baptized his disciples in these waters. In the meantime Jesus came to John and received baptism at his hand.

RAMOTH GILEAD

Twenty miles to the northeast of where we stood on the Jordan is Es Salt, once called Rāmoth Gilead. It is the only city east of the Jordan now, but in Jesus' day there were many. Elijah was probably born here, and Ahab, King of Israel, was slain in battle in Ramoth Gilead. For many centuries it was a bone of contention between Israel and Syria, but capitulated, with Samaria, in 722 B. C.

SPRINGS OF MOSES

East of the Jordan, directly opposite Jericho, we find this perennial water falls called the Springs of Moses. Israel camped here for a long time previous to the conquest of Canaan, and here Moses read the law to them for the last time, then commissioned Joshua to take his place and lead on to take the Promised Land. He then went up into Mount Nĕbo nearby and died, after a long and eventful life.

THE DEAD SEA

We are now standing on the lowest spot on the face of the earth—some thirteen hundred feet below the sea level. This is the Dead Sea, and it contains twenty-five per cent more salt than the ocean. It lies in a bed of salt, and there is absolutely no life, either animal or vegetable, in the sea or near the shore. It is a fine place to learn to swim, for one cannot sink in the Dead Sea.

SITE OF SODOM

At the southern extremity of the Dead Sea there once stood two cities—Sodom and Gomorrah—which are said to have been destroyed by fire from heaven. Lot, a nephew of Abraham, once lived here in Sodom, and before it was destroyed he was permitted to escape, but we are told that his wife looked back and was turned to a pillar of salt. Lot's sons became the heads of the Moabites and Ammonites.

EL-KHAZNA AT PETRA

Some twenty miles south of the Dead Sea is a most mysterious place called Petra, which means "rock." A great city was cut out of the solid rock mountains, and this is one of the buildings, if you can call it a building, for temples, tombs, and residences were literally cut into or away from the mountain side, and the workmanship is exquisite. Some good authorities claim that Israel camped here, and it may have been Kadesh Barnea.

BETHEL

From the banks of the sacred Jordan we now turn northwest across the hills, over the same route taken by Joshua in his march to Ai, and four miles beyond it is Bethel. Here Abraham and Lot fed their flocks together for many years. Later Jacob's dream of a ladder to heaven was given, and immediately after the death of Solomon Jeroboam set up a golden calf and compelled the people to worship it.

SHILOH

About ten miles north of Bethel is old Shiloh, the center of Israel's religious activities for three centuries. Here Joshua divided the land among the twelve tribes, and the tabernacle remained here until the days of Samuel; and during all this time Israel met here yearly for their celebrations. Eli was high priest when little Samuel was dedicated to the Lord by his mother.

JACOB'S WELL

Ten miles farther north is Jacob's well, near Shechem. When Jacob returned from Padan-aram, he liked this neighborhood and bought this field. He dug a well here, and intended to stay, but the neighbors became hostile and he left the country. Jesus met a woman of Sychar at this well and told her of his great mission, which finally resulted in the conversion of the entire village.

SYCHAR

Across the plain a distance of about a mile lies Sychar, a Samaritan village. It was here that the woman just referred to lived. Her neighbors became so interested in Jesus that they urged him to tarry with them, and he remained two days. They have the distinction of hearing his first sermon to a non-Jewish people, and they were very responsive to his message to them.

MOUNT GERIZIM

Jacob's well is located at the base of Mount Gerizim, and on its summit is their temple. This accounts for the woman saying "We worship in this mountain." Their form of worship is identical with that of the Jews, but they, being of mixed blood (with Gentiles), the privileges of the temple at Jerusalem were refused them, and the Samaritans built their own temple on this mountain.

JOSEPH'S TOMB

Joseph's tomb is also at the foot of Gerizim. You will remember that Joseph's dying request in Egypt was that his bones be buried in Shechem. Accordingly they were carried through all the wilderness wanderings, and when Canaan was conquered by Joshua, Joseph was buried here at Shechem, though more than four hundred years had passed since his death.

SHECHEM

Shechem is one of the ancient cities of the Holy Land, and is only a mile from Joseph's tomb. It was the very first halting place of Abraham in Canaan, and the site of the first altar to Jehovah. It was the home of Gideon, and the first capitol of (northern) Israel under Jeroboam. It is now called Nāblŭs, and the residence of the remnant of the Samaritan people, which number only 150.

SAMARIA

Less than ten miles north of Shechem are the ruins of Samaria, located high upon a hill. The city was built as the capital of Israel by Omri, the father of King Ahab, and all the kings of Israel were buried here until 722 B. C., when the country was taken by Assyria and the ten tribes were carried away captives. Since that time there has been no trace of them to be found.

AHAB'S PALACE

These ruins, which have been recently excavated in Samaria, are called "Ahab's Ivory Palace," but there is no certainty regarding their identity. The columns seem far too modern for Ahab's time, and it is likely that they were a part of the buildings erected by Herod the Great, who was king when Jesus was born. He beautified and fortified the city and indulged in the commonest revelry here.

STREET OF COLUMNS

On a street leading east and west across the entire city of Samaria there was an adornment, part of which were these pillars. It is believed that it was the market street, and that the columns supported a roof over the entire length of it. There seems to have been two rows, but only one row is standing today. The only thing sure about it is that it was built by Herod.

DOTHAN

A few miles farther north is Dothan. You will remember that while Jacob lived at Hebron he sent Joseph to seek his sons at Shechem, but they had moved on to Dothan, and Joseph, getting this information, overtook them there. His brothers were envious of him because of their father's favoritism, and when the lad arrived they first put him in a pit, but afterward withdrew him and sold him as a slave.

TOWER OF JEZREEL

Another ten miles brings us to Jezreel, center of Baal worship and summer home of the wicked Ahab and Jezebel. They were denounced by Elijah for their gross idolatry. Their threats drove the prophet into exile. One Naboth had a fine vineyard here, and Jezebel had him put to death to secure the property for her husband. She finally met her death at the hands of her servants at this tower.

PLAIN OF ESDRAELON

Jĕzreel is on the south border of Esdraelon, one of the finest portions of land in all Palestine. Megiddo, where Sisera was defeated by Deborah, is on the west border and Beth Shan, where King Saul was defeated and committed suicide, is on the east. It has been the battle ground of the centuries, and more human blood has been shed here than on any one spot in the world, it has been said.

GIDEON'S FOUNTAIN

Mount Gilboa rises from the plain on the southeast. At the foot of this mountain is Gideon's fountain, so named because Gideon selected from his army of thirty-three thousand only three hundred men and armed them with torches and pitchers, and, by his stratagem, drove the marauding Midianites back across the Jordan, killing each other as they went.

NAIN AND MOUNT TABOR

The plain of Esdraelon lies between Mount Gilboa and Mount Moreh (Little Hermon). On the north slope of Mount Moreh is a little village called Nain, and Jesus arrived here once just as a poor widow was burying her only son, and our Lord stopped the funeral and restored the boy to life. The church was built to commemorate this event. The hill in the distance is Mount Tabor.

MOUNT CARMEL

Jutting itself out into the Mediterranean is Mount Carmel, which is located at the west side of Esdraelon. Mount Carmel was the retreat of Elijah and Elisha. The former had his prayer answered here by fire from heaven, which resulted in the destruction of four hundred and fifty priests of Baal, and afterward, in answer to his prayer, the three-and one-half-years' drouth was broken in the days of Ahab.

NAZARETH

We now leave the historic plain of Esdraelon, and some fifteen miles northeast of Mount Carmel brings us to the summit of another lofty hill, upon which Nazareth is located. This beautiful little city was perhaps the birthplace of the prophet Jonah; it was also the home of Mary and Joseph, and Jesus was brought up here and lived until his earthly mission was announced to the world.

CHURCH OF ANNUNCIATION

The beautiful and devout Virgin Mary mingled with neighbors here, and one day her devotions were interrupted by an angelic visitation, and it was announced to her that she should become the mother of a Son, whom she should name Jesus (Saviour). In commemoration of this sublime event this church has been erected here in Nazareth, and is called the Church of the Annunciation.

CANA OF GALILEE

Leaving Nazareth, and bearing north and east, we come to another pretty little village in the midst of fig and olive orchards, called Cana. Jesus visited with a friend here whose name was Nathanael. On this first visit he changed water to wine at a wedding feast, and the second he healed the son of a nobleman residing in Capernaum, who came seeking his help.

SEA OF GALILEE

About twenty miles from Nazareth and fifteen miles from Cana brings us to the Sea of Galilee, upon whose shores Jesus made his home for some time. It is a beautiful body of water more than five hundred feet below sea level, and is almost entirely surrounded by majestic hills. The Jordan flows through this lake, which, in fact, is but an enlargement of that river.

TIBERIAS

Tiberias is the only town on its shore to-day, but in Christ's time Capernaum was the principal city. Tiberias was built by Herod Antipas during the life of Jesus, but we have no record of our Lord ever having visited it. John the Baptist probably did, however, and his denunciation of Herod's profligacy was so severe that the king had him sent to prison.

MAGDALA

To the north of Tiberias a distance of about two miles is the village of Magdala, by the sea, and was the home of Mary Magdalene. Jesus was here at least one time just after he had fed the "four thousand" at the south end of the sea. The Pharisees requested him, upon this visit to do some miracle, but he was convinced that they only sought entertainment and refused to gratify their curiosity.

GENNESARET AND HATTAN

Magdala is located at the south end of a plain called Gennesaret, and we are now on the north border of it. The disciples landed on this shore the morning after the storm at sea when Jesus walked on the water, and here Jesus chose the twelve, and then repaired to the top of the distant hill called Hattan, where he delivered the Sermon on the Mount.

BETHSAIDA

In the last picture we were looking west. From the same spot we turn and face the east, and here is Bethsaida, once the home of James and John and probably Andrew and Peter. Somewhere along the shore of this bay Jesus called, first, Andrew and Peter to follow him, and then, a few minutes later, he called James and John, sons of Zebedee. They were all fishermen, but they immediately left their nets to follow him.

CAPERNAUM

Capernaum is located at the extreme north end of the sea of Galilee, and Bethsaida was no doubt a suburb of it, where the average people and fishermen had their residence. After Jesus' rejection at Nazareth he considered Capernaum his home, and probably resided with Simon Peter, one of his disciples. He performed more of his "mighty works" here than in any other place in all Palestine.

RUINS OF CAPERNAUM

Capernaum was a Roman city, and was so beautiful that it became the pride of that country. Jesus said of it, when the people there rejected him, "O thou Capernaum, which art exalted to the heavens, thou shalt be brought down to the grave," and this mass of ruins testify to the fulfillment of his prophecy of woe. These excavations have been made in recent years.

RUINS OF SYNAGOGUE

Capernaum, though Roman, contained a synagogue, which they had built for the Jews, it is believed, for diplomatic reasons, and the centurion whose servant Jesus healed had a lot to do with its erection. Jesus has spoken often in this synagogue and did several miracles in it, particularly the restoring of the "withered hand," but later he did not enter it many times because of Jewish antagonism.

STEPS TO THE SYNAGOGUE

There are but few places where it can be definitely said that Jesus actually set his foot in Palestine, but here is one. Undoubtedly he has often entered this synagogue by these very steps, and it can be said with absolute certainty that his feet have trod upon each of them. These recently excavated ruins have been buried for centuries, and the excavations have been made by Franciscan monks.

BETHSAIDA-JULIAS

Four or five miles east of Capernaum, beyond upper Jordan, is Bethsaida-Julias. It was built by Philip, and Jesus healed a blind man here just before his Transfiguration. The hill is said to be the place where he miraculously fed the five thousand with a few loaves and fishes, and just beyond it he healed the demented man among the tombs in the country of the Gadarenes.

LAKE HULAH AND MOUNT HERMON

About fifteen miles north of the Sea of Galilee is a little lake called Hulah, once called the Waters of Merom. Joshua, in his conquest of Canaan, defeated Jabin, King of Hazor here, and the king was put to the sword. Abraham must have passed here in his pursuit of Lot's captors, and our Lord came this way on his trip to Cæsarea-Philippi. The snow-capped mountain in the distance is majestic Hermon.

OLD ROMAN BRIDGE

On this same trip to the city of Philip Jesus must have crossed this very bridge, for it is a part of the old Roman road which led from the Sea of Galilee to the capitol, and was new in the time of Christ. Think how substantially it must have been built to stand all these centuries. With some repairs, it is a splendid bridge to this day, and will no doubt be used again when the new road is built through this beautiful country.

CÆSAREA-PHILIPPI

We follow Jesus from Bethsaida-Julias far to the north in a most fertile section about the head of the Jordan. Nestled at the foot of Mount Hermon is Cæsarea-Philippi, once the residence of Philip, son of Herod the Great. Jesus came here with his disciples and remained a week, and it was in this section that Peter acknowledged him to be the Son of God in what is commonly called the Good Confession.

GATE OF CÆSAREA-PHILIPPI

Philip held his position by appointment from Rome, and he built the city and named it for Cæsar. It was a walled city, and new when Jesus came here, and must have been beautiful indeed. It is in ruins now, but this gate bespeaks its former grandeur. The bridge spans the Jordan here, which is a mere streamlet, for we are near its source. In the background are the slopes of Hermon, where we will go later.

IDOL CRYPTS

Neighboring towns are Laish, Kadesh, and Dan, and once they all worshiped idols. Cæsarea-Philippi worshiped Pan, and its former name was Panias. Their gods were located in crypts like these, and though built by the Greeks several centuries before Christ, yet they are still in a good state of preservation. The city is called Banîas to-day.

MOUNT HERMON

The loftiest and most majestic mountain in the Holy Land is Mount Hermon, which rises to an altitude of ten thousand feet. It is constantly covered with snow, and sends down at all seasons a crystal stream of refreshing water. Jesus was met here by Moses and Elijah, and was transfigured in the presence of Peter, James, and John while the other disciples waited below.

DAMASCUS

Damascus, "Pearl of the Desert," lies far to the east of Hermon, and is reputed to be the oldest city in the world. As the capital of Syria, it was ever the rival of Israel, except during the reign of David, when it was brought under subjection to him. It received the Christian religion at a very early date, and Paul was converted here and preached to the infant congregation, and was sorely persecuted by Jewish antagonists.

PLACE OF PAUL'S CONVERSION

As Saul (afterward Paul) neared Damascus, intent upon destroying the Christians there, we are told that he met Jesus near the city, and the persecutor fell to the earth and cried "What must I do?" Following the divine directions, he entered the city and became a member of the church he had come to torture. We are told that at this very spot, just outside the walls, he met the Lord and became a convert.

STREET CALLED STRAIGHT

The people of Damascus will tell you that Paul was led, blind, through the East Gate of Damascus, which opens to a street called Straight. This street crosses the entire city, and is covered with a roof of glass, as may be plainly seen in the picture. Paul was led to the house of Judas, and one Ananias came to him and instructed the penitent persecutor how he could become a Christian.

COURT OF A DAMASCUS HOME

We now finish our tour of the Holy Land, and the writer trusts that you have some conception of what the country looks like and a few outstanding events of Bible history which were made in this interesting land. If you would like to know more about it, write the author, and he will gladly refer you to a book of 2,500 pictures, telling the story in detail.

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